

# THE MAYOR OF CASTERBRIDGE



*Thomas Hardy*

## THE MAYOR OF CASTERBRIDGE (1886)

by *Thomas Hardy*

Irritated and drunken, an itinerant farm-worker sells his wife and child to a stranger. Thus begins *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, set in rural and small-town England in the mid-1800s. In the original subtitle, Hardy called this the story of “a man of character,” and the central character, Michael Henchard, is one of English fiction’s greatest creations. Henchard is deeply developed as a realistic character, but also larger-than-life in the manner of a Greek or Shakespearean tragic hero — huge in his determination and huge in his failings. The novel deals with the struggle of individual will, the hold of the past, and the relentless control of circumstances in a changing society.

Read by Bruce Pirie

Proofed by Betty M.  
Coordinated by Arielle Lipshaw  
Running Time: 12:51:17

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